

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

IO-10 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 SSO-00 /095 W

----- 045082

R 311039Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, CB

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON RTG POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 28. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS
REMARKS ON RTG POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA.

REPORTER: THERE IS A NEWS REPORT THAT THE CAMBODIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER WILL ARRIVE IN THAILAND ON MONDAY.

CHATCHAI: HE IS RETURNING FROM GENEVA AND HE WILL STOP OVER
HERE THREE DAYS AS GUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REPORTER: A REPORT FROM TOKYO SAYS THAT THE CAMBODIAN
GOVERNMENT IS SENDING ITS OFFICIALS TO ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES
IN ORDER TO REQUEST VIEWS AND ADVICE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

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CHATCHAI: WE HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT WE MUST NOT INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE HELP IT? MILITARY AID IS THE ONLY FORM OF AID THAT COULD HELP IT SURVIVE, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE MILITARY AID BECAUSE IT WOULD BE INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NO COUNTRY DARES TO INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FURTHERMORE, THIS GOVERNMENT HAS STATED CLEARLY IN ITS STATEMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY THAT IT WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THEREFORE, NO SUCH ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.

REPORTER: WHAT WILL WE DO SHOULD CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REQUEST ASYLUM IN THAILAND?

CHATCHAI: THAT IS ANOTHER SUBJECT ON WHICH TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL VIEW IN THE MATTER?

CHATCHAI: THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL. THERE ARE A HUGE NUMBER OF POLITICAL REFUGEES IN OUR COUNTRY, TOTALLING THOUSANDS, TENS OF THOUSANDS, AND IT DOES NOT MATTER AT ALL.

REPORTER: ARE THERE ANY WAYS FOR ASEAN TO GIVE AID?

CHATCHAI: ASEAN MEMBER NATIONS WILL MOST PROBABLY HOLD A MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON THE CAMBODIAN AND THE VIETNAMESE ISSUES. CONTACT IS BEING MADE, AND NORMALLY AMBASSADORS OF ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES MEET WITH OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSTANTLY, WHEN THERE IS ANY MATTER ON WHICH TO MEET AND HOLD CONSULTATIONS.

REPORTER: BUT THE SITUATION IS VERY TENSE AT PRESENT.

CHATCHAI: DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS IT HAS BEEN SAID CONSTANTLY THAT CAMBODIA WILL FALL THAT IT HAS FALLEN ALREADY, THAT IT WILL FALL NEXT WEEK, AND WE GO THERE TO SEE WHAT THE SITUATION IS. THEN, 3-4 MONTHS LATER IT IS SAID THAT
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IT HAS FALLEN AND WE HAVE TO FLY THERE AGAIN, ONLY TO FIND THAT IT HAS NOT FALLEN.

REPORTER: WHAT ARE MILITARY CIRCLES HERE SAYING IN REGARD TO PHNOM PENH?

CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW, BECAUSE I AM IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NOT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

REPORTER: WE ASSERT THAT WE WILL NOT INTERFERE, BUT
IN PRACTICE MANY GOODS ARE BEING SENT THERE...

CHATCHAI: WE HAVE NOT INTERFERED AT ALL...

REPORTER: IN ADDITION, THERE IS TRANSPORTATION OF
WEAPONS TO IT.

CHATCHAI: THERE IS NONE DEFINITELY, AFTER THE GOVERN-
MENT MADE ITS STATEMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

REPORTER: AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES SAY THE GOVERNMENT
HAS NEVER MADE ANY REQUEST FOR THE SENDING OF WEAPONS TO
BE STOPPED.

CHATCHAI: WE HAVE NEVER HELD NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY
WITH AMERICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS
ARE HELD THEY MUST BE AT THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT TO
GOVERNMENT, OR BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HERE, OR BETWEEN OUR MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT.

REPORTER: SPEAKING OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS,
THERE IS TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS AT PRESENT.

CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW, I FOLLOW THE LEAD OF OUR
GOVERNMENT, AND I ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE GOVERN-
MENT, AS STATED IN A NEWS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE PRIME
MINISTER -- THAT THERE WILL BE TRANSPORTATION OF AID FOR
THE SAKE OF HUMANITY ONLY, SUCH AS FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICINES.
THIS IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. ALL AIRLIFTS HAVE HAD
TO BE HALTED NOW BECAUSE PLANES ARE NOT ABLE TO LAND.
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PLANES COULD NOT LAND YESTERDAY ALSO.

REPORTER: WILL WE BE ABLE TO SEND A PLANE TO EVACUATE
THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF?

CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW BUT WE MUST TRY TO LAND A PLANE
AT ALL COSTS? OTHERWISE HOW COULD THEY BE BROUGHT BACK.
ALL OF THEM MUST BE BROUGHT BACK.

REPORTER: HOW MANY MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF ARE
STILL LEFT IN PHNOM PENH?

CHATCHAI: THREE MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF ARE STILL
LEFT THERE. THE LOCAL EMPLOYEES WE ENGAGED TO WORK THERE
HAVE BEEN PAID THEIR SALARIES BEFOREHAND, 3 MONTHS' PAY.

SANDBAGS HAVE HAD TO BE PILED UP BEHIND ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS OF OUR EMBASSY.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE THE PRESENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT FALLS AND A NEW GOVERNMENT IS SET UP, WOULD THAILAND HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH IT?

CHATCHAI: SINCE CAMBODIA IS A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, WITH A COMMON BORDER WITH THAILAND AS LONG AS 300 KILOMETERS, AND SINCE IT TAKES ONLY 3 HOURS BY CAR FROM THAT BORDER TO BANGKOK, WE WOULD RECOGNIZE ANY GOVERNMENT IN PHNOM PENH, SO LONG AS IT HAS BEEN SET UP UNDER CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, OR THE LAW. AFTER ALL, HOW IT ARRANGES THE FURNITURE IN ITS OWN HOUSE IS ITS OWN AFFAIR AND NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.

REPORTER: HAVE WE HELD ANY MEETINGS WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK'S SIDE DURING RECENT TIMES AND NOW?

CHATCHAI: I HAVEN'T HAD ANY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIM AT ALL, BUT I HAVE HAD SOME CONTACTS WITH SOME OF HIS RELATIVES, HIS DAUGHTER AND HIS SON-IN-LAW, WHEN THEY PASSED THROUGH HERE.

REPORTER: WHEN YOU WENT TO PEKING, DID YOU HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ANY MEMBERS OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT?
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MENT IN EXILE THERE?

CHATCHAI: NO, BECAUSE MOST OF THEM ARE IN CANTON. I WENT TO PEKING.
MASTERS

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